

In the claims

1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for policy-based control of a label switching network carrying one or more of voice and data traffic, the system comprising:

a central office, the central office including a trunk gateway;

the label switching network being coupled to the trunk gateway of the central office;

a network administration system, the network administration system including a plurality of policies stored in a policy repository each policy of at least a subset of the plurality of policies ~~to control~~ controlling, at least in part, the operation of the label switching network wherein a policy is one of an admission policy and a life cycle policy wherein further an admission policy maps packet traffic flows onto one or more label switched paths within the label switching network and a life cycle policy creates, deletes and monitors the one or more label switched paths within the label switching network; and

a call control complex, the call control complex coupled to the network administration system and the label switching network.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the gateway is one of a line gateway, a trunk gateway, and a service gateway.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the central office includes class five central office equipment.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the network administration system includes one or more of traffic management information and device provisioning information.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of policies include a plurality

of traffic management policies.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the call control complex is to send voice service traffic data to the network administration system.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the network administration system is to send voice service label switched path provisioning policies to the label switching network.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the network administration system is to send virtual private network provisioning policies to the label switching network.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the label switching network is a multiprotocol label switching ("MPLS"), the system further comprising an SS7/AIN network coupled to the call control complex.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the SS7/AIN network and the MPLS network are part of a regional telecommunications company network.

23-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a label switching network with policy based management, the method comprising:

operating at least a portion of the label switching network based at least in part on a first policy, wherein a policy is one of an admission policy and a life cycle policy wherein further an admission policy maps packet traffic flows onto one or more label switched paths within the label switching network and a life cycle policy creates and deletes the one or more label switched paths within the label switching network;

receiving a control input;
selecting a second policy based at least in part on the control input, the second policy being different from the first policy; and
operating at least the portion of the label switching network based at least in part on the second policy.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein operating at least a portion of the label switching network based at least in part on a first policy includes operating at least a portion of the label switching network as one or more voice trunks based at least in part on a first voice traffic policy.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein receiving a control input includes receiving a voice traffic condition.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the voice traffic condition is selected from the group consisting of time of day, measured voice traffic demand, estimated voice traffic demand, projected voice traffic demand, and a customer request.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein receiving the control input includes receiving network status information from a network device of the label switching network.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein operating at least a portion of the label switching network based at least in part on a first policy includes operating at least a portion of the label switching network as one or more virtual private networks based at least in part on a first virtual network policy.

37-40 (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method for policy-based management of a label switching network, the method comprising:

a step for operating at least a portion of the label switching network based at least in part on a first policy, wherein a policy is one of an admission policy and a life cycle policy wherein further an admission policy maps packet traffic flows onto one or more label switched paths within the label switching network and a life cycle policy creates, deletes and configures the one or more label switched paths within the label switching network;

a step for receiving a control input;

a step for selecting a second policy based at least in part on the control input, the second policy being different from the first policy; and

a step for operating at least the portion of the label switching network based at least in part on the second policy.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the first policy is selected from the group consisting of a voice traffic management policy, a virtual private network management policy, and a quality of service management policy.

43- 48 (Cancelled)